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view is presumably largely due to Dr. Wilson's own work, and the opinion now expressed in his book is that the various types of structure assumed for protoplasm by different schools may in reality represent different phases in the functional activity of this substance. So thoroughgoing and complete has been the revision for the new edition that it will form an invaluable aid to every one interested in modern aspects of cytology.

P.

Intracellular Canals in Ganglion Cells. — The system of canals within the protoplasmic substance of ganglion cells, to which Holmgren has recently called attention, has been identified by Bethe[1] in the spinal ganglion cells of the rabbit. That these canals have a wall of their own as contrasted with the protoplasm of the cell in which they lie seems doubtful. They can be traced, however, beyond the limits of the cell, and in such regions show an undoubted wall; but this contains no nuclei, and hence its histological composition is in doubt. No connection between the canals and blood vessels could be demonstrated, the structures in this respect differing from the tubes discovered by Adamkiewicz. The physiological significance of these canals, whether they be lymph spaces or other such structures, is still to be ascertained.

P.

Vertebrate Anatomy. — Professor W. S. Miller[2] has edited and published under one cover four papers on vertebrate anatomy, the work having been done for the most part by students in his laboratory. The first deals with the histology of the lung of Necturus, the second with this animal's vascular system, and the third with its brain. These three contributions are simple descriptive statements of the more obvious facts that they have to deal with, and are not far-reaching in any direction. The fourth paper takes up the question as to whether there are preformed natural openings on the lining of the body cavity of the cat, a question which is answered in the negative. The papers on the whole are not of a high order, and, in fact, it is difficult to justify the publication of the first three. Nor is the editorial work well attended to, as the following sentence shows (p. 203): "The nuclei of these cells do not seem to occupy any one characteristic position, but are found in all parts of the cell."

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[1] Bethe, A. Einige Bemerkungen über die "intracellulären Kanälchen" der Spinalganglienzellen und die Frage der Ganglienzellenfunction, *Anat. Anzeiger*, Bd. xvii (1900), pp. 304–309.

[2] Miller, W. S. Contributions from the Anatomical Laboratory of the University of Wisconsin, *Bull. Univ. Wis.*, Science Series, vol. ii (1900), pp. 199–245, Pls. III–XV.

P.

Elementary Physiology.[1] — This small book consists of a series of outline headings in physiology for schools, with references to standard books where information on the subjects can be had, as well as a set of laboratory exercises in this science. The grade of the work can be judged from the fact that on page 2 ten book references are given, of which six lead the reader to Shepard's *Chemistry* and inform him that "any other good chemistry will answer just as well," and four direct him to the "Dictionary, any unabridged." The laboratory exercises equal the outlines. On page 140 we are instructed to "get from a butcher either the head of some mammal which still has the eyes uninjured or some eyes that have been carefully removed," and, after certain preliminary steps, to pour out the vitreous humor and observe "the yellow spot, or area of acute vision." As an obvious yellow spot is limited among mammals to human beings and monkeys, one is naturally inquisitive about the butcher shops in the neighborhood of the State Normal School of Minnesota. Unpretentious as the book is, one must regret that it departs so far from facts.

P.

Formaldehyde. — The properties of formaldehyde have been made the subject of an interesting communication by Neuville.[2] An historical sketch of its discovery, uses in biology, as well as an account of its method of preparation and its physical and chemical properties, precede a discussion of its action on albuminoids and color compounds. Gelatin, when subjected to its action, is rendered insoluble, though still remaining flexible. This action is not a simple coagulation, but a real chemical action, for, if the solution of formaldehyde used is weak, all traces of this reagent disappears when considerable gelatin is mixed with it. On the other hand, blood serum is less easily coagulated by heat, etc., in the presence of formaldehyde. Its action on pigments is very diverse. The coloring matters of bile and of urine seem unaffected by it, but those which give to organisms their normal colorations are so differently

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[1] Cox, U. O. *A Syllabus of Elementary Physiology, with References and Laboratory Exercises.* Mankato, Minn., Free Press Printing Co., 1899. viii + 167 pp.

[2] Neuville, M. H. Sur la formaldéhyde, *Bull. Soc. Philomathique, Paris,* Sér. 9, T. i (1899), pp. 104–121.